

Nebraska Information Technology Commission

Strategic Initiatives Update

Network Nebraska

Nebraska Telehealth Network

Statewide Synchronous Video Network

Community IT Planning and Development

Nebraska e-Learning

Enterprise Architecture

E-Government

Security and Business Resumption

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Contents

Network Nebraska	2
Nebraska Telehealth Network	3
Statewide Synchronous Video Network	4
Community IT Planning and Development	6
Nebraska e-Learning	7
Enterprise Architecture	8
E-Government	9
Security and Business Resumption	12

Network Nebraska

1. **Develop and offer Internet I services to eligible network participants by January 10, 2005.**

Status: Network Nebraska Internet service has been extended to eligible participants at a unit price approximately 50% of the October 2003 unit price. In addition, a service provider was contracted to provide redundant service out of the Omaha area. As of March 2005, an estimated 250,000 persons are being served by Network Nebraska Internet and transport services within state government, higher education, and K-12. This includes all four campuses of the University of Nebraska, two state colleges, three of the six community colleges, and all or part of the schools represented by ESUs 7, 10, 11, 15, 16, and 18.

2. **Identify Tier II communities that offer opportunities for aggregation for services onto the network.**

Status: Additional Tier II communities are still being considered. Wayne, Nebraska is aggregating Internet service from municipal and education entities through wireless service provided by Wayne State College. Tier II aggregation discussions have also occurred with Mid-Plains Community College in North Platte, UNK and ESU10 in Kearney, and the municipalities of Scottsbluff and Gering.

3. **Create a Service Level Agreement for use by CAP and the eligible network participants no later than November 1, 2004.**

Status: The Service Level Agreement has been developed and distributed to eligible network participants and suggested changes are now being reviewed.

4. **Create a Network Nebraska Level 1 Helpdesk no later than November 1, 2004.**

Status: Call center is up and running staffed by NET.

5. **Create a Network Nebraska website no later than December 15, 2004.**

Status: Network Nebraska website, www.networknebraska.net is posted and fully functional. Additional documents and resources are being added and linked as needed.

6. **Meet with the Technical Subcommittee of the Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network to discuss issues related to network administration and management.**

Status: Ongoing.

Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network

1. **Identify options for integrating the Nebraska Telehealth Network with the statewide synchronous video network and Network Nebraska.**

Status: The Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network has formed a group to address network scheduling and is exploring the possibility of coordinating efforts with the Statewide Synchronous Video Workgroup to ensure compatibility with education.

2. **Report on any changes to legislation or regulations that would impact continued support of telehealth through the Nebraska Universal Service Fund to the Community Council and Nebraska Information Technology Commission at least annually.**

Status: Possible legislation affecting the Nebraska Universal Service Fund is being monitored. LB 751 introduced by Senator Foley would require the State Treasurer to transfer all funds in excess of 20 million dollars from the Nebraska Telecommunications Universal Service Fund. LB 722's Committee Amendment 442 would create a Public Infrastructure Utilization Task Force with funding of \$250,000 to \$350,000 from the Nebraska Universal Service Fund.

3. **Monitor legislation, regulations, or other threats to the continued support of telehealth through the federal Universal Service Fund and update the Community Council and Nebraska Information Technology Commission at least annually.**

Status: Possible legislation affecting the Universal Service Fund is being monitored. Significant changes to the Telecommunications Act of 1996 including the Nebraska Universal Service Fund are expected to be introduced.

4. **Encourage continued cooperation of all entities involved in the development and management of the Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network by facilitating meetings on specific issues as needed.**

Status: No action needed.

5. **Meet with the Technical Subcommittee of the Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network to discuss issues related to network administration and management.**

Status: No action taken. A meeting will be scheduled later this spring.

6. **Form a subcommittee to develop a plan for future educational programming and organize at least one educational program on an issue related to the delivery and expansion of telehealth.**

Status: A subcommittee has been formed. Workshops were held Sept. 10 and Feb. 18. A workshop is being planned for the Panhandle later this spring.

Statewide Synchronous Video Network

1. **Identification of a single audio and video standard for low-bandwidth distance learning and videoconferencing.**

Status: Completed. The NITC approved the H.263/H.264 video compression protocol and G.722, G.722.1, and G.728 audio compression protocols.

2. **Development and submission of a Congressional funding request to fund upgrade of classroom and networking resources necessary to bring K-12 and higher education distance learning facilities into compliance.**

Status: Congressional request of \$9.8 million was submitted on September 8, 2004. The funding request was declined.

3. **Designation of a fiscal entity to oversee bidding, ordering, delivery and installation of equipment.**

Status: The white paper, "Converting distance learning networks to a high bandwidth, flexible infrastructure" provides several options for bidding and procurement of equipment and services. The Distance Education Enhancement Task Force, if created as described in LB 689, would provide recommendations for this action item by December 31, 2005.

4. **Equipment RFP, bidding, ordering, delivery and installation of equipment.**

Status: The Distance Education Enhancement Task Force, if created as described in LB 689, would provide recommendations for this action item by December 31, 2005.

5. **Research scheduling systems and enterprise resource management programs.**

Status: Research continues on this action item.

6. **Purchase or develop a scheduling system and/or enterprise resource management program.**

Status: The Distance Education Enhancement Task Force, if created as described in LB 689, would provide recommendations for this action item by December 31, 2005. Timeframe likely to be delayed until summer 2006 at the earliest.

7. **Explore options for a network operations center that assures particular qualities of service.**

Status: The Distance Education Enhancement Task Force, if created as described in LB 689, would provide recommendations for this action item by December 31, 2005.

- 8. Development of a web-based clearinghouse that allows originators to post events and users to register for or view the date, time and frequency of individual events.**

Status: The Distance Education Enhancement Task Force, if created as described in LB 689, would provide recommendations for this action item by December 31, 2005.

- 9. Development of training modules to accompany equipment orientation.**

Status: The Distance Education Enhancement Task Force, if created as described in LB 689, would provide recommendations for this action item by December 31, 2005.

- 10. Research models from other states' education networks.**

Status: The Distance Education Enhancement Task Force, if created as described in LB 689, would provide recommendations for this action item by December 31, 2005.

Community IT Planning and Development

1. **Work with at least 6 community or regional technology committees to develop IT plans through the IT Planning and Mini Grant program**

Status: Grants were awarded to Chappell, Cheyenne County, Cuming County, Hartington, Kearney, and Nemaha County. Each local committee is making significant progress on conducting community assessments.

2. **Provide continuing support for the 17 community and regional technology committees which have participated in the 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 IT Planning and Mini Grant programs.**

Status: Continuing support is being provided via e-mail and telephone conversations.

3. **Promote technology-related development through the quarterly newsletter, TANGents.**

Status: The winter issue of TANGents was published in late January 2005 and is available at http://extension.unl.edu/tangents/tangents_contents1-05.htm.

4. **Work with the Nebraska Rural Initiative to identify options for the expanded use of youth to assist in IT development activities.**

Status: A meeting is being scheduled with the Nebraska Rural Initiative.

5. **Complete an inventory of e-commerce training programs, gap analysis and recommendations for coordinating e-commerce training.**

Status: Completed.

6. **Develop a handout with tips for choosing a Web designer.**

Status: Completed.

7. **Develop an implementation plan for e-commerce coordination.**

Status: The Nebraska Rural Initiative is completing an implementation plan.

Nebraska eLearning Initiative

1. **Organize a series of October 2004 Planning Workshops to bring together participants who have a stake in improving educational and training opportunities for Nebraska citizens through eLearning.**

Status: Six workshops were conducted between October 11 and 22, 2004. Summary documents will be posted to an Angel collaborative community site for threaded discussion among the workshop participants.

2. **Develop a design document detailing the technology components, standards, costs and administration of a Nebraska eLearning Knowledge Repository for the sharing of educational content.**

Status: In progress.

3. **Work with education and staff development professionals to document strategies, techniques and tools used in course management and create a clearinghouse of eLearning best practices and training modules.**

Status: In progress.

Enterprise Architecture

1. Governance and Planning

Status: Version 1.0 has been written and is ready for presentation to the State Government Council. Version 1.0 includes the topics of Governance and Planning and Business Architecture and Management Principles. Version 2.0 will focus on the technology architecture, including the topics of shared services, technology drivers and IT principles.

2. Compliance Plan

Status: The chapter on governance and planning in version 1.0 of the enterprise architecture includes a compliance strategy and the process for justifying a variance.

3. Integration Plan

Status: The chapter on governance and planning in version 1.0 of the enterprise architecture includes a discussion on integrating other processes with the enterprise architecture.

4. Technical Architecture Framework

Status: Deferred to a future version, when we have a better understanding of what is involved in developing and maintaining the enterprise architecture.

5. Technical Architecture Blueprint

Status: The chapter on Business Architecture and Management Principles version 1.0 of the enterprise architecture summarizes the important business drivers affecting technology in Nebraska. A future version will document existing inventory and defacto technology standards.

6. Enterprise licensing

Status: Enterprise agreements in place: IBM Software (ELA); IBM Hardware Maintenance (CHIS); Microsoft Software; IBM WSCA; Dell WSCA; HP WSCA; Gateway WSCA; 4 Vendors provide Temporary Information Technology Contract Help; KALOS (AS/400 hardware and software); MicroFocus (development environments); 9 Vendors provide remote PC and network support on a time and material basis. Contracts with ESRI and Oracle are pending, as are additional WSCA vendors.

7. Shared services

Status: In progress. This topic was discussed at the February State Government Council meeting and will be the focus at the March work session of the State Government Council.

E-Government

1. **Work with the Secretary of State's Office to provide enhancements to election related information and services.**

Status: Completed. Enhancements made for November 2004 election.

2. **Work with the Accountability and Disclosure Commission to provide for secure online filings and improved access to information.**

Status: Improvements to information access completed.

3. **Work with the Legislature to provide additional tools to track legislative information. The Nebraska@ Online Manager is developing additional features, including the ability to track multiple bills from one location and the use of e-mail "push" technology.**

Status: Completed.

4. **Work with the Department of Motor Vehicles to provide for online vehicle registration and drivers license renewal. DMV is in the process of implementing two systems – insured motorists database and digital drivers license system – which will allow for the future deployment of these online services**

Status: No change.

5. **Work with the Nebraska@ Online Manager and county officials to provide the means for online payment of property taxes and other local fees.**

Status: State Records Board grant application submitted for a pilot project with six counties.

6. **Prepare a comprehensive strategy for online licensing of regulated professionals.**

Status: Work ongoing, to be posted. Online filing on hold.

7. **Working with the various agencies involved in business registration – including the Secretary of State, Department of Revenue, and Department of Labor – create an online system for business registration.**

Status: Work group established. Analysis underway by NOL and agencies.

8. **Prepare a report on the barriers and options for providing online access to certain, limited, criminal history information.**

Status: On hold.

9. **Develop an online application for use by businesses attempting to find a suitable site for business development.**

Status: No change.

10. **Improve the business forms database maintained by NOL and enhance the search capabilities.**

Status: Work on application completed, work on data is ongoing.

11. **Under sponsorship of the Education Council of the NTIC, The Nebraska@ Online Manager will work with the Education Council educational institutions to provide enhancements to the Education Portal, including but not limited to an Information Technology training calendar; searchable database of educational courses, degrees, and programs; and statewide application for admission to higher education institutions.**

Status: Information Technology Training Calendar under development; Searchable Database project terminated, no plan to continue, another source provides similar information; Statewide Application for Admission, project terminated, no plan to continue.

12. **The Department of Education is developing online teacher/administrator certification.**

Status: Completed.

13. **Develop strategies to address intergovernmental cooperation groups; integration of government information and services; the development of a local government portal; and forms automation.**

Status:

Intergovernmental Collaboration Groups: The Juvenile Data Sharing Work Group (created by CJIS and SGC) sponsored a study to prepare a strategic plan for data sharing among entities providing services to children. That study will be finished in March 2005. The Steering Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect Information Exchanges prepared an interim report in October that recommended six short-term projects. MOAs for those projects have been signed (except for one) and those projects are now getting underway. Further information is available at: <http://cio.nol.org/CTF/>. In January, the Office of the CIO submitted an application to the National Governor's Association for a \$50,000 grant to conduct a pilot project for using Global XML technology to enable existing systems to exchange data on child abuse cases. Nebraska's project is one of six out of 21 proposals, which was approved. We are waiting for the contract from NGA before initiating work.

Local Government Portal: On schedule to be incorporated into overall NOL site redesign currently planned for June 2005.

Integration of Government Information and Services: A steering committee is working on integrating the information system needs of the Foster Care Review Board into the NFOCUS system maintained by HHS.

- 14. The State Government Council will identify specific improvements and value-added services to be incorporated into the state employee portal, Nebrask@Online for State Employees (www.nebraska.gov/employee/).**

Status: No change.

- 15. Develop a marketing strategy to increase public awareness and the use of e-government services.**

Status: A meeting was held with agency PIOs on October 1 to explore different strategies for marketing. NOL has hired a marketing director. NOL is developing recommendations for the next State Records Board meeting.

- 16. Prepare draft standards for all agency home pages to include privacy and security statements.**

Status: Webmasters Work Group developed draft standard under review by the State Government Council. Draft security statement to be reviewed by the State Government Council and State Records Board.

- 17. The SGC will work with other entities to investigate ways of providing authentication, especially for first time encounters with users.**

Status: No change.

Security and Business Resumption

Security

1. **Request funding for the CIO to contract for security audits.**

Status: Completed.

2. **Investigate opportunities for aggregating efforts of several state agencies that face federal requirements for security audits.**

Status: Working with agencies.

3. **Prepare RFP and Scope of Work.**

Status: RFP underdevelopment, to be released Spring/Summer 2005.

4. **Conduct 2005 Security Audit.**

Status: Pending release of RFP.

5. **Establish an authentication standard to be submitted to the NITC to seek approval by the March 2005 meeting.**

Status: Completed.

6. **Implement the Content Management structure for all agencies.**

Status: Work underway.

7. **Propose two-factor authentication standard to NITC Directory Workgroup and State Government Council.**

Status: Timeline to be revised.

8. **Provide Web-Based Single sign-on (WSSO) guideline to any client/application that desires it.**

Status: Timeline to be revised.

9. **Review incident reporting procedures to determine need for changes in what is reported and the reporting requirements.**

Status: Completed. The Division of Communications is developing an incident reporting process.

10. **Communicate reporting requirements to agencies.**

Status: Pending completion of previous item.

- 11. Configure all public state IP addresses (164.119) behind the state's firewall complex.**

Status: Completed.

- 12. Implement an intrusion detection and prevention system on the State's Internet connection as a part of a layered defense.**

Status: On schedule.

- 13. Investigate and recommend an enterprise solution to ensure that encrypted traffic adheres to State security requirements.**

Status: On schedule.

- 14. Evaluate and recommend options for providing encryption to clients across the state's Wide Area Network.**

Status: On schedule.

Business Resumption

- 15. Conduct an "executive overview" briefing (orientation exercise) to state agencies (using either the State Government Council or the Security Work Group as a forum) explaining the progress and current and future activities in the development of disaster recovery plans.**

Status: Pending completion of DAS contract with vendor.

- 16. Encourage agencies to develop agency business continuity plans and disaster plans for information technology by seeking funding sources, providing training on developing plans, and providing technical assistance. The focus should be at the business level.**

Status: Pending completion of action item 15 above.

- 17. Identify and develop procedures for common elements that should be addressed in all or most business continuity plans and disaster recovery plans for information technology.**

Status: Pending completion of action item 15 above.

- 18. Develop a shared recovery capacity serving state government and the University of Nebraska.**

Status: Initial hardware and communications capabilities in place. Additional implementation work ongoing.

- 19. Conduct a briefing for state agency information technology staff (orientation exercise) describing the disaster recovery activities that will be performed by IMServices and the disaster recovery testing that has been completed.**

Status: On time.

- 20. Evaluate current status of testing and recommend testing strategies for different kinds of systems.**

Status:: DAS performed a “table-top” disaster recovery exercise in October 2004. In November 2004, NEMA sponsored a statewide table-top exercise. A NEMA-sponsored DAS exercise is scheduled in April 2005.